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NEW YORK TIMES 3 October 1984

AN EAST GERMAN IS ARRESTED AS SPY

Woman, 67, Seized at Kennedy Airport Reportedly Carried Tape of U.S. Secrets

By JOSEPH P. FRIED

A 67-year-old East German woman was arrested at Kennedy International Airport Monday night as she was about to board a flight for Czechoslovakia with a tape recording of classified United States military information hidden in a cigarette pack, Federal authorities said yesterday.

They said the pack with the tape recording had been given to her by a United States Army sergeant who pretended to be a spy recruited by Soviet intelligence, but in fact was a double agent working for United States authorities.

They charged that the woman, identified as Alice Michelson, was a courier for the Soviet intelligence network who was used, a Soviet agent reportedly told the sergeant, because "the F.B.I. would never suspect an older woman." The Soviet agent was also quoted as having said that she was "trained in surveillance detection."

Meeting at Baltimore Airport

The sergeant, who was not identified, was said to have given the cigarette pack and recording to Miss Michelson during a meeting Saturday in a cocktail lounge at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport. The sergeant was wearing a hidden device to record the session, at which, authorities said, Miss Michelson stated that she would be taking the material he was giving her out of the country when she left Monday.

Federal officials declined to say what kind of classified information was in the material, but the sergeant was reportedly assigned to an Army intelligence unit at Fort Meade, Md.

A woman at the Soviet Embassy in Washington referred a reporter to what she said was the telephone number for its press division, but there was no answer to repeated calls to the number.

Yesterday afternoon, at an arraignment in Federal District Court in Brooklyn, Miss Michelson was ordered held without bail by Magistrate John L. Caden on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage.

A Legal Aid Society lawyer representing her at the proceeding stood on one side, and a translator whispered in her ear on the other. She was not asked to enter a plea to the charge and said nothing except, "No," when asked by the magistrate if she needed medical attention.

'Taught Marxism'

Miss Michelson, a short woman with graying black hair, who was dressed in tan corduroy pants and a sweater, was taken to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan. Court papers described her as an East Berlin resident who "taught Marxism at an institute" there.

Conviction on the the charge against her is punishable by the death penalty, "but we have no intention of seeking it," Ronald E. DePetris, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said in an interview. In describing the case, Federal

In describing the case, Federal agents and Justice Department prosecutors told a story that seemed right out of a spy thriller. Their account included "coded introductions," instructions in espionage given the sergeant at the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City and an apartment in Woodside, Queens, that was "being used as a safehouse by Soviet intelligence agents," according to an F.B.I. affadavit.